Branches

Extending news and information to UTAS members and friends

Charleston Tour 2012

~Lynn Carlson

In mid-April the annual garden tour, sponsored by the UT Arboretum Society, explored the Charleston, South Carolina area. Twenty-six guests enjoyed five days of garden-related discussions and tours, with plenty of time for shopping and relaxing. The visit was timed to enjoy the yearly Festival of Houses and Gardens at peak azalea time, but, alas, it was not to be. Our mild winter meant that azaleas and dogwoods had already bloomed, but there was still a lot to see and learn.

As always, our gracious hosts Dennis and Jan Superczynski were on hand to smooth over any hassles and irritations of a complicated itinerary that included touring the expansive plantation gardens on the Ashley River, and the diminutive town gardens in historic Charleston.

A day of bus travel placed the group at the Renaissance Charleston Hotel, convenient to shopping, food, and walking tours of the Battery. On our first full morning a horse-drawn carriage ride gave us a clear overview of the historic area, and set the stage for the first of two self-guided tours of town gardens.

Serene Green: the City Gardens of Charleston

The city gardens of Charleston are cool green oases in the bustle of the historic area “South of Broad” Street. The gardens are tiny, but meticulous gardeners make the most of the available space. Aged walls shelter them, providing enclosure and framework for these gems of the garden world.

On days one and three, our group visited nearly two dozen gardens opened especially for the Charleston Festival of Houses and Gardens, held each year in March and April. These were private gardens, only opened to the public for the festival. Our group was also able to tour two additional gardens with a knowledgeable docent, and most of the pictures accompanying this article come from those gardens.

Article continues on page 3
President’s Letter

I hope that you are taking care of yourselves and your plants during the unseasonably hot weather this summer. Flowers, trees, and the crops in the Farmers’ Market are about a month or more ahead of schedule. As I write this in late June, I can report seeing some blooming wildflowers that are more common in August than now, and some of the trees and bushes in our neighborhood are showing distress from the heat, sun, and lack of rain. So, take care of yourselves and your plants!

Programs and activities continue at the Arboretum during the summer and fall. Bob McLaren will present his popular photography workshop in July. Kris Light will have a hands-on presentation about butterflies and insects on August 11 in the Arboretum Parking lot, and the always-popular Fall Wildflower Walks are scheduled for September 15. The Fall Plant Sale is scheduled for Saturday, October 13. Please mark your calendar. This is an important event for UTAS. The Owl Prowl is on October 27. About 200 people attended this event last year. The UTAS Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for November 13. There will be more about this event in the next Branches.

Holly workdays are scheduled for July 14 and November 17, 9 a.m. until noon. The Native Plant Group works in the beds around the Arboretum Office on a monthly basis. Call Lee Ann Dobbs for specific dates. Finally, we anticipate that the Plant Collections Group will be planting viburnums as Phase II of the Viburnum Valley project. Keep an eye out for an announcement.

Your Society remains active, even in the heat of summer. Please plan to attend one or more programs. Mark your calendars. (Our program schedule is made months in advance. We do our best to keep it up-to-date, but changes do occur, so check for changes with the Arboretum Office, or call me at 865-482-3502.) I hope to see you there.

Thanks to Kevin Hoyt and Tom Row for coordinating UTAS-Arboretum programs.

As always, thank you for your continuing support to the Arboretum and your loyalty to UTAS.

~Charles Samuels, UTAS President

samuels253@comcast.net, 865-482-3502

Director’s Desk

“There is no more powerful engine driving an organization toward excellence and long-range success than an attractive, worthwhile, achievable vision for the future.” Burt Nanus, professor, author of Visionary Leadership

This quote inspires me to further embrace the power of teamwork, partnerships, and collaboration. I read his book in preparation for the 2011 Center Director interview process. Moreover, during the past 11 months I have come to realize that the power of teamwork is alive and well with the UT Arboretum Society membership, the FRREC staff, UT research faculty contingent, and members of the community at large. We continue to forge collaborative partnerships in support of the UT FRREC mission and long-term Arboretum goals.

In reviewing the UT Arboretum’s history, it is clear that the programs and projects led by Richard Evans during the past 40+ years have truly supported the broad mission of the University of Tennessee by promoting research, teaching, and educational outreach. Although the UT Arboretum has focused programming and projects on woody plants and native wildlife, these focus areas involve many scientific disciplines. They include natural resources, forestry, horticulture, botany, and ecology, to name a few. However, since the Arboretum has thousands of visitors a year, it is the human element that will drive our continued success and future destiny.

Considering our future destiny, the human element, and teamwork concept for successful project management, the FRREC staff will begin prepping an area adjacent to the Arboretum office (see below) to reinstall the information kiosk. This team-building project will truly provide a solid foundation for welcoming visitors, enhancing program information and outreach, and providing an opportunity to increase public donations for the Center with the reinstallment of the donation tube. We hope to break ground on this project by mid-June and complete the work in July. Have a GREAT summer!

See our website for more information:

http://forestry.tennessee.edu

~Kevin Hoyt, Director
Charleston Tour 2012, continued

In a way, it was good to miss the azaleas because we could see the bones of each garden without being overwhelmed with color, and a good garden design is satisfying even in off-peak. It’s not clear that these gardens ever have an off time. The predominant theme is green, with an occasional touch of white. Clipped boxwood hedges (short), clipped *podocarpus* hedges (tall), and closely pruned creeping fig (flat against a wall) are repeating motifs. Confederate creeping jasmine blooms everywhere. Formality is the rule; flamboyant cottage gardens are rare. Green. Restful. Private. Timeless. After the exuberance of spring, annuals provide the color, refreshed as necessary throughout the summer to keep the view vibrant. Window boxes abound for the viewing pleasure of strollers, allowing additional, colorful art.

Gardens and window boxes are high-maintenance because of the formality of their designs. Most are cared for by professional services. They are made for looking at, not for tinkering.

The Nathaniel Russell House, a showpiece for the Historic Charleston Foundation, was a highlight of our third day. Its 3-story cantilever staircase and elegant, carefully restored interior are must-see items for the architecture buff.

A Civil War (oops, War between the States) theme runs through all historic and garden presentations. The city itself escaped some of the destruction that the plantations suffered at the end of the war, but that time is still vivid in the collective consciousness of residents. We hear a sense of place and past in everything the Charlestonians present to the public, and the gardens are no exception.

Lots to learn, indeed. And you do have to wonder who dusts the trees and irons the leaves each morning...

Ashley River Elegance

Two plantations, Magnolia Plantation and Middleton Place, captured our attention on Day two. There was a great contrast in design at the two venerable gardens, from wild and romantic at Magnolia to stately symmetrical at Middleton Place.

The original home at Magnolia Plantation was destroyed during the Civil War, but portions of the current house, moved from another site, predate the Revolutionary War. However, the gardens, in the ‘romantic’ style, escaped destruction, and some portions are over 300 years old. Of particular note are the acres of “ancient” (pre-1900) camellia varieties—over 1000 cultivars of *C. japonica* alone. Peak bloom is usually in April; this year it was much earlier, but some blossoms lingered in the cool shade.

The Audubon Swamp Garden at Magnolia is definitely on the wild side, a blackwater swamp accessible by boardwalk and various pathways for bird and wildlife viewing. You could spend an entire day here, watching alligators on their sun boards and egrets in their nests.

The group spent the morning at Magnolia Plantation on a tram ride overview, a tour of the present house, and some brief rambles about the gardens. A leisurely exploratory tramp by master gardeners could easily take hours more.

On the other hand, the grounds at Middleton Place are laid out in a very formal manner, following the rigid principles of André Le Nôtre, who designed, among other noted gardens, the geometric perfection at Versailles. Formal parterres and boxwood hedges abound; color is provided mainly by roses and annuals. The picture shows the approach to the Octagonal Garden, with a view of the Ashley River beyond. Note the straight lines and vistas leading from an orderly imposition of form on nature into the wilds beyond civilization. The main house at Middleton Place has not survived, but one 1755 dependency, called a “flanker,” has been restored with many Middleton family treasures.

No UTAS tour is complete without a nursery stop on the way home, and, even though it was Sunday, we managed a brief visit to the Asheville Farmer’s Market, where the Jesse Israel Nursery displays its wares. Most of us acquired one or more living mementos of our trip, and even ice cream cones to ease any boredom of the ride back to reality.

Upcoming Events

Please check our website, www.utarboretumsociety.org, for updated and additional information on our events.

Butterflies and Insects - Kris Light
Saturday, August 11  10 a.m.  Arboretum
Kris will present a hands-on workshop featuring all kinds of butterflies and other insects. Yes, a butterfly is an insect! Find out more about these beautiful and fascinating creatures from a real pro who knows how to share her wealth of information in a fun way.

Two Fall Wildflower Walks
Saturday, September 15  10 a.m. and 2 p.m.  Arboretum
You’ll have two opportunities to spend some time outdoors and find fall wildflowers again this year. Due to high demand, we offer a 10 a.m. walk with Kris Light and a 2 p.m. walk with Charlie Samuels. You’ll need to call the Arboretum office, 483-3571, to register for one or the other. Both walk leaders can help you discover plenty of wildflowers. Bring a camera and take home some photo reminders of your walk. This is suitable for all ages.

Fall Plant Sale
Saturday, October 13  9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  Arboretum
Plant Sale chair Norm Dobbs, with Debbie Roberts of Plant Concepts, present a fine selection of both popular and rare plants. Remember that fall is often the best time to plant. Come on out!

Owl Prowl with Katie Cottrell
Saturday, October 27  6:30 p.m.  Arboretum
Want to get up close and personal with some of nature’s most interesting nocturnal creatures? It’ll be close to Halloween, so it’s at perfect time for an evening of owls. This is one of our most popular programs, so if you’ve never been, check it out.

Website Redesign - Take a Look

~Kevin Hoyt
Nancy Smith, UTA volunteer, has redesigned the Arboretum’s DiscoverET web pages (http://www.discoveret.org/utarboretum). Her goal was to make the site cleaner, faster, and easier to navigate, with no more than 3 clicks to find the information a site visitor is searching for. These guidelines were suggested by web designers at AgResearch who are putting together templates for the new UT web page design.

The major change in design is in the Featured Plants pages. Bob Reed suggested using a table format divided into trees, shrubs and vines, ferns and fern allies, and wildflowers. He compiled a database of each of the categories from which Nancy created the web pages. It brings a more intuitive display to our extensive plant information.

We owe great thanks to Bob for generating this valuable information resource, and to Nancy for significantly improving our website redesign that incorporates this data.
View Branches Online

Look for an email reminder from UTAS with a link to Branches on our website. There, you can see it in color and link to websites, etc. You can also see what else is going on at the Arboretum and UTAS. Just go to www.utarboretumsociety.org and check it out any time.

Email & Membership Notes

If your email address changes, please notify emily@jernigans.net.
If your mailing address changes, please notify emily@jernigans.net. The Post Office charges us for every piece of returned mail.

Renew now! Check your Branches label for your membership expiration date! You’ll get a reminder, or download a form at www.utarboretumsociety.org.

Stumped?

I saw a few very small stalks with greenish flowers along one of the trails. What are they?

According to the Arboretum website, http://forestry.tennessee.edu/featuredplantsjuly.htm, “If you look carefully along a number of our Arboretum trails, you may be fortunate enough to see an inconspicuous orchid that blooms in mid–to late July. The leaves of the Cranefly Orchid, which develop late in the fall, are distinctive in being green on the upper surface and purple below. The leaves persist during the winter months allowing the plant to photosynthesize during the season when sunlight reaches the deciduous forest floor. In the spring, the leaves break down and are absent at the time of flowering. Tipularia discolor, the only member of its genus in North America, is found in many parts of Tennessee and is distributed from southern New England, south to Florida, and west as far as Texas.”

Bob Reed supplied this answer and photographs.

Email questions about trees, woody plants, or wildlife to our Green Thumb experts at utarboretumsociety@gmail.com

Plant Sale Volunteers-Thanks!

David Alspaugh
Kathy Bracic
Lynn Carlson
Katie Cottrell
Norm & Lee Ann Dobbs
Linda Ducamp
Ken Farrell
Stacey Fuller
Harvey Goranson
Lynda Haynes
Jeff & LeCie Holt
Pat Hunsicker
Charlie & Emily Jernigan
Brenda Kimmel
Larry Landau
Evelyn Lorenz
Peggy Mahoney
Evelyn Moyers
Eileen Neiler
Wendy Packan

Hella Peterson
Dick Raridon
Joanna Partain
Susan Reed
Bob & Willow Reed
Bob Reynolds
Stan & Vicky Richards
Debbie Roberts
Tom & Pat Row
Gary & Marti Salk
Charlie & Roseanne Samuels
Don Searle
Carrie Shore
William Sirett
Melanie Staten
Rand Stewart
Dennis & Jan Superczynski
Marie Walsh
Carole Willard
Will Witte

Very special thanks go to all volunteers who worked more than one shift and one day. Also, special thanks are owed to UT Arboretum Director Kevin Hoyt and the UT Forest Resources Center Headquarters and Cumberland Forest staffs. Without their help our plant sales would not be possible. Beverly Woods did an outstanding job of recruiting these helpers for our sale and we appreciate all her efforts.

UTAS Membership Application

Name__________________________________________Phone____________
Address__________________________________________________________
City_______________________ State_____ Zip________
E-Mail__________________________________________
New____ Renewal____
Society Friend $100_____ Patron $500_____
Family $45_____ Individual $30_____ Student $15_____
Yes, I want to make an additional Contribution:
UTAS General Fund $_____ 
Elmore Holly Collection Fund $_____
All memberships and contributions are tax deductible.
Yes, I’d like to help with Society committees, special events or other needs. ______

Mail this form with your check to:
UTAS
P.O. Box 5382
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-5382
The Elmore Holly Collection

On April 7 the Holly Task Force and UTAS volunteers performed grounds maintenance and installed identification tags and posts in the Elmore Holly Collection. It was a very productive morning of weeding, fertilizing, pruning, and mulching. We also installed 21 new posts and signage. We thank Yvonne Hitchcock for assisting and staging the area in advance and the 13 UTAS volunteers that participated on this busy Easter weekend. We especially thank Carmen and Josie Gianforte for taking charge preparing and installing signage and posts, and to Norm Dobbs and Gary Salk for making significant headway in pruning the overgrown Japanese Holly Collection. More work is needed in this area of the Collection and will be scheduled for future maintenance sessions. Will Witte arranged getting fertilizer and instructions on use and application. The session ended at noon with a luncheon prepared by Jan Superczynski.

The Holly Task Force thanks all those that participated in this effort: Norm and Lee Ann Dobbs, Ken Farrell, Carmen and Josie Gianforte, Sally Gross, Yvonne Hitchcock, Marti and Gary Salk, Fran Scheidt, Bill Sirette, Dennis and Jan Superczynski, and Will Witte.

Two additional maintenance sessions are scheduled in 2012: Wednesday, July 11, and Saturday, November 17. We invite all UTAS members and friends to join us.

The Holly Society of America recognizes the Elmore Holly Collection as an official Holly Arboretum and Experimental Test Center. As the only official holly arboretum in Tennessee, the UT Arboretum participates in reporting the status of the collection that is published annually in the Holly Society Journal. Activities performed by the UTAS Holly Task Force are recognized in that Journal.

Dennis Superczynski for The Holly Task Force:
Carmen and Josie Gianforte, Fran Scheidt, Barry Shupe, Mike Stansberry, Dennis and Jan Superczynski, and Will Witte

“Foster Parents” for Plants

~Norm Dobbs

After potting up 90 seedlings in January, a cadre of plant “foster parents” reports that all is going well. These plants should make fine specimens for our 2013 Spring Plant Sale. Three plants were selected for this trial project: ‘Shoal Creek’ Vitex (Chaste tree), ‘Dynamite’ Crape Myrtle and ‘Pink Velour’ Crape Myrtle. ‘Dynamite’ and ‘Pink Velour’ were two of the popular crape myrtles featured at our 2008 Spring Plant Sale. Five ‘Pink Velour’ crape myrtles from that sale can be spotted on the hillside just before the entrance to the Arboretum parking lot. UTAS volunteers helping with this project include Barbra Bunting, Lynn Carlson, Janet Cushman, Norm Dobbs, Ken Farrell, Stacy Fuller, Pat Hunsicker, Evelyn Lorenz, Dick Raridon, Tom Row, and Irene Sullivan.

Stacey Fuller has potted up 72 Dawn Redwoods (Metasequoia glyptostroboids) that will be fostered by the following UTAS volunteers: Lynda Haynes, Peggy Mahoney, Dick Raridon, Pat Hunsicker, Irene Sullivan, Randy Stewart, Ken Farrell, Evelyn Lorenz, and Jeff Holt. Stacey is going to raise 36 of them herself!

Contact Norm Dobbs (nadobbs@bellsouth.net) or Stacey Fuller (steezay1@yahoo.com) if you’d like to raise a few of these plants.

New & Renewing Members~Thanks!

Karin Adler
Ralph & Belinda Aurin
Jean Bangham
Sandra M. Barry
Faye Beck
*Mozelle Bell
Lydia Birk
*Jerry Black
Dianne Blane
Kathy Bracic
Barbara Bunting
*Charles & Marion Burger
Lynn Carlson
Katie Cottrell
Janet & Bob Cushman
James H. Day
Carol Dee
Laura Derr
Kara Disbrow
Terry & Betty Anne Domm
Margaret Dory
Karen & Mark Downing
Betty Dreyer
Art Dworkin
Peter & Mary Ann Emanuel
Viola Ergen
*Ruth Ewald
Darren Fuller
Carmen & Josie Gianforte
Elwood & Roslyn Gift
Roger & Maria Goetz
Harvey Goranson
David Greenwood
Edward Groody
Doug & Sally Gross
Barbara Hawkins
*Lynda & Chuck Haynes
Gayle Hazen
Jon Hetrick
Cecil & Betts Higgins
Dot and Robert Hightower
Jeff & Lecie Holt
David B. Howard
Pat Imperato
Clara Joan Johnson
Karen Johnson
Anna Joldersma
Eph & Mary Ellen Klots
Mary H. Kollie
Manfred O. Krause
Susan Kreke
Tracy Lawrence
Christine Lee
Evelyn Lorenz
David Mabry
*Peggy & Mike Mahoney
Joseph A. Mallard
Judith Mallory
Dan & Rebecca Mantooth
Cleva M. Marrow
Debbie McCoy
Bruce & Karla McMaster
Sara Melton
Mary Mishu
Rosa Murr
Dan Nangle
Edmond & Maresse Nephew
Edward & Shirley Nicholson
Martha Orrin
Wendy Packan
Bill & Ruth Pardue
June E. Peisheh
Madelon Perreauault
Mark & Susie Peterson
*Margaret A. Phares
Susan Pihtffner/Tom Phelps
David & Cassandra Pina
David & Mary Ann Piper
Marian Poteat
Ann H. Primm
Richard & Mona Raridon
*Davis & Susan Reed
Suzanne Riggle
Dan & Eva Robbins
Debbie Roberts
Joan F. Roberts
*Murray & Mimi Rosenthal
Janie V. Salyers
David H. Scanlon III
Carole Schulman
Don & Vickie Searle
Mary Jane Sil
William & Muriel Sirett
Sandi Langston & John Skinner
Alan Solomon
Randy Stewart
Kathy & John Sullivan
Rita Trusley
Fred & Aase Vaslow
Marie Walsh
Julie Watts/Robert Devault
Val Widgren
Chris & Cathy Wieland
Amy Wolfe
Beverly S. Woods
* Denotes Society Friend
Help Wanted

- A Membership Committee and a Nominating Committee are forming. See Page 4 for details.

Ongoing

- Native Plant Group meets the third Wednesday most months. Lee Ann Dobbs. 482-6656 or leadob@bellsouth.net
- Plant Collections Committee: Viburnum Valley is its most recent project. Lynn Carlson, lbcarlson@alumni.indiana.edu
- Help out with our Elmore Holly Collection. Contact Dennis Superczynski, 607-8512 or jandport@tds.net

Thanks!

Norm Dobbs chaired another successful Spring Plant Sale
UTA staff and UTAS volunteers helped at the Spring Plant Sale
Norm Dobbs and Stacey Fuller have potted up numerous seedlings that UTAS volunteers are fostering until they can be sold at our 2012 Spring Plant Sale
Jim Evans, TWRA, talked about backyard wildlife.
Dennis and Jan Superczynski organized and led the Charleston tour.
Mike Black discussed the National Bobwhite Quail Initiative.
Kris Light presented Moth-ers Night Out.
Dr. Karen M. Vail talked about the Impact of Ants on Households & Property
Dr. Sharon Jean-Philippe explored UT’s Urban Forestry Program

How to Find Us

On the WorldWideWeb: www.utarboretumsociety.org
Email: utarboretumsociety@gmail.com
Via GPS: 901 S. Illinois Ave, Oak Ridge, TN 37830
35.9995, -84.2259

Looking to the Future...
The UT Arboretum Endowment Campaign

A $3 million endowment campaign has been initiated to secure future funding for the UT Arboretum. The Rogers Group has recently fulfilled its pledge of a $500,000 Founding Gift to the Endowment. The UT Arboretum Society has contributed over $40,000 to this effort, continuing its longstanding support of the Arboretum.

Now we need to engage everyone to fully achieve our goal. You can assist this effort in many ways:

Become an ambassador for the Arboretum and spread the word about the Endowment:
- Include the Arboretum Endowment in your estate planning
- Help the campaign partners identify potential donors
- Talk about how much the Arboretum has meant to you, your children and the community
- Honor loved ones with memorials to the Endowment

The endowment will fund critical features of a grand vision for the future of the University of Tennessee Arboretum that will include:

- Expanded collections of plants
- Creation of an Arboretum coordinator position
- Improved facilities for public access and enjoyment
- Enhancement of the grounds, displays, and trails
- Perpetuation and care of existing plant collections
- Creation of vibrant education and outreach programs

If you have questions, need information, or wish to share your idea for funding the UT Arboretum Endowment, please contact:

UT Institute of Agriculture Office of Development- Thomas Looney - 865-974-8622
UT Arboretum -Kevin Hoyt - 865-483-3571
UT Arboretum Society -Charlie Samuels 482-9096

To contribute to the Endowment Fund, make your check payable to the University of Tennessee and indicate in the memo line that you want your contribution credited to the UT Arboretum Endowment Fund. Mail it to the UT Institute of Agriculture, Development Office, 107 Morgan Hall, 2621 Morgan Circle, Knoxville, TN 37996-4502.

For more information on Planned Giving visit this University of Tennessee website:
www.utalumni.utk.edu/givetout
Upcoming Events

August 11       Butterfly & Insect Workshop with Kris Light

September 15   Wildflower Walk with Kris Light or Charlie Samuels

October 13      Fall Plant Sale

October 27      Owl Prowl with Katie Cottrell

Check the mailing label for your membership expiration date.